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EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Phenomenology and Transcendence

The Author meets Critics session on Robert Dostal's book *Gadamer's Hermeneutics: Between Phenomenology and Dialectic* is supplemented with one historical and three current position papers that highlight political realities and the importance of nourishing dialogue in democratic societies.

While the four critics – Theodore George, Georgia Warnke, David Vessey, and Mirela Oliva – overall praise Dostal's Gadamer interpretation, they also present philosophical challenges to ideas discussed in the book, to which Dostal offers a robust rebuttal. A broader perspective is given by Alexander Crist who courageously frames a hermeneutic discussion to address the COVID-19 pandemic by utilizing key terminology taken from Hans-Georg Gadamer and Karl Jaspers in order to support his concern regarding a – what he calls, a hermeneutic crisis – that shaped public discourse during the pandemic years.

Since 2021 the reality of this crisis is well documented by Robert F. Kennedy, who appears to suggest that a cabal of sociopaths in critical high positions of social and political power knowingly and willingly withhold effective medical treatments for diseases that are unleashed worldwide onto an unsuspecting populace. Despite the fact that Kennedy names key players of this alleged nefarious scheme and he meticulously documents his prosecutorial arguments, not one of the alleged wrongdoers, including Anthony Fauci, Bill Gates, and their respective minions, felt the need to file a libel, slander, or defamation claim against Kennedy. The absence of legal action by the accused against Kennedy's damning allegations of crimes against humanity and treason appears to confirm on inferential grounds the veracity of his claims.

An example from history documenting resistance against political might is given in Otto Doerr-Zegers' essay that commemorates the 80th anniversary of the attempt on Hitler's life. The essay brings attention to opposing human traits of character and moral fortitude or lack thereof.

Two examples outlining the public perception of the current political climate in the United States are the essays by Hugh Kelly and Jörn Kroll. Building upon the writings of Jaspers and Hannah Arendt, Kelly attempts to transcend the tribalism that divides communities and impedes dialogue. Coming from a different angle, Kroll advances existential realization and transcendence as an arbiter for principled civilized human dialogue.

December 23, 2024

Helmut Wautischer
Editor-in-Chief

A discussion of these topics is posted at <https://www.youtube.com/@ExistenzJournal/videos>.

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